GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4402
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015
AUTONOMY TO ISLRTC
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Institutes which are working for the welfare of the differently abled persons in the country, State-wise disability-wise;

(b) whether the National Association for the Deaf has been demanding autonomy for the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC);

(c) if so, the reasons advanced by the Association for grant of autonomy to ISLRTC; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) There are seven National Institutes under this Department working in the field of disability. These institutes are engaged in Human Resources Development in the field of disability, providing rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities and Research and Development efforts. The seven National Institutes are as follows:-

(i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun.

(ii) National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai.

(iii) Swami Vivekanand National Institute for the Rehabilitation, Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack.

(iv) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (AYJNIHH), Mumbai.

(v) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad.

(vi) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH), Kolkata.

(vii) Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped, IPH, New Delhi.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c) to (d): The National Association for the Deaf has been demanding autonomy for the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) mainly for the reason that Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped (AYJNIHH), Mumbai supports only oral education. The Ministry had approved establishment of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), initially on project basis for a period of 5 years, as an autonomous centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi in July, 2011. However, the Centre could not take off due to various reasons. Therefore, it was decided to dis-engage the project from IGNOU and to set up ISLRTC in Delhi as a standalone Institution under the Ministry. The proposal of the Ministry to set up ISLRTC was discussed by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in its meeting held on July 18, 2014. Subsequently, based on the comments received on the proposal, it has been decided by the Ministry to integrate ISLRTC with the Regional Centre of Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped (AYJNIHH) at New Delhi.

The main objectives of the Centre will be as under:

i. To promote the use of Indian Sign Language (ISL) in India.

ii. To carry out research in ISL and create linguistic record/analysis of the language.

iii. To train persons in Sign linguistics and other related areas at various levels.

iv. To design, promote and offer programmes in ISL, interpreting and bilingual educational, at various levels through various modes including the distance mode.

v. To collaborate with other institutions and organizations of the Deaf to promote and propagate ISL.

vi. To collaborate with Universities and other educational institutions in India and aboard in Sign Language research, deaf studies, and related areas.

vii. To act as a clearing house of information on ISL, Deafness Education of the Hearing Impaired and related areas.